

Corporation for National and Community Service

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AWARD NOTIFICATION: SENIOR CORPS RSVP EXPANSION GRANTS

Background

Throughout the country, Senior Corps engages the skills, talents, and experience of more than 245,000 Americans age 55 and over to meet a wide range of community challenges through a network of three programs — the Foster Grandparent Program, the Senior Companion Program and RSVP. Through Senior Corps, older adults make a real difference through the lives of individuals and as they help increase the capacity of nonprofit organizations, community agencies, faith-based and tribal organizations throughout the United States. The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) awards grants to these local organizations and public agencies to administer these programs.

RSVP strengthens public and nonprofit agencies by building the infrastructure needed to efficiently and effectively mobilize experienced and skilled volunteers with vital programs and services. One of the largest volunteer efforts in the country, RSVP engages more than 208,000 older adults, retired or not, who use their skills and life experience in volunteer service that helps solve challenges facing communities. RSVP volunteers serve in diverse volunteer roles that may include: intergenerational education; access to care including opioid abuse/prevention; transportation services that support aging in place; housing services and activities in evidence-based programs. Additionally, they help increase the capacity of local organizations by recruiting and managing other volunteers.

In January 2017, Senior Corps opened the 2017 RSVP Expansion Competition with a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This national competition was an opportunity for communities—with no current RSVP program—to apply for funds and establish new programs that address national priorities. The response was tremendous. Requests for funding outpaced the available funding amount by more than five times resulting in a highly competitive applicant pool. In accordance with the criteria and process established by the NOFO, 50 organizations were selected to be awarded grants. Together, these grants total a funding amount of \$5,370,177 for a total of 7,766 new RSVP volunteers.

Award Information

Recipient: United Way of Eastern Upper Peninsula
511 Ashmun Street
Suite 200
Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan 49783 – 1960
(906) 632-3700

Program Contact: Suzanne Prell, suzanne@unitedwayeup.org

Award Amount: \$75,000 per year/3 years (pending annual appropriations)

Target Geography: Mackinac, Luce, and Chippewa Counties

Program Summary:

United Way of Eastern Upper Peninsula in Northeast Michigan is a rural, isolated area where pre-school attendance is shrinking and older kids are at-risk of not graduating high school. In an effort to improve school readiness and graduation rates, United Way will recruit 75 RSVP volunteers to help build the academic skills of 325 students most vulnerable and at-risk of not graduating. RSVP volunteer will serve lower-income three- to five-year olds in various pre-school and Head Start locations, including a Chippewa Tribal Head Start program. In partnership with Boys and Girls Clubs, RSVP volunteers will provide mentoring that supports education and career development to increase academic engagement and school performance, helping to provide kids with the skills necessary to graduate high school and succeed.